

Mr. Vickers, presented the petition of citizens of Kent county, praying an additional Justice of the Peace;

Which was read and referred to the committee on Judicial Proceedings.

The President laid before the Senate the following communication:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
SENATE,

*Annapolis, January 22, 1866.*

DEAR SIR:

We have been appointed a committee by the Senate, to inquire, whether any of the Judges of the State have contravened the decision of the Court of Appeals, which confirmed the constitutionality of the law relating to negro apprentices. A copy of the order is enclosed.

The committee have been informed, that as Judge of the Criminal Court of Baltimore City, since the decision of the Court of Appeals, writs of Habeas Corpus have been granted by you, against William McCauley and John Yale, of Kent county, and John F. Beels, of Cecil County, to bring before you negro apprentices bound prior to that decision, and which they were obliged to do at some expense and much inconvenience.

Will you be pleased to inform the committee, if the facts stated are correct, and if so, the names of those who made application, the nature of the proof, and the ground upon which the writs were issued, the decisions made by you and the grounds of your judgments. Also, whether you consider it essential, that indentures of apprenticeship of negro children, should contain a recital of the notice to the parents, their appearance or non-appearance before the Orphan's Court; their assent or dissent to the binding, or to the master selected by the court; whether the acts of the Orphan's Court are not presumed to be in conformity to law and the judges to have performed their duty; and whether as judge of the Criminal Court, you feel bound to conform to the decision of the Court of Appeals upon this subject? We propose the last question, because we have not heard that any other judge in the State, has exercised the power of ordering the issues of writs of Habeas Corpus in similar cases, since the decision alluded to.

We respectfully ask a reply, at your earliest convenience.

By order of committee,

GEORGE VICKERS, Chairman,

HON. H. L. BOND,

Judge of the Criminal Court of  
Baltimore City.